



# The TOAST Times



Volume 3, No. 2

November/December 2009

**Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology**

<http://toast.albany.k12.ny.us>

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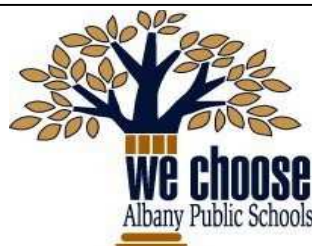
## **From the Desk of Mr. Fowler:**

Can you believe the first trimester of the school year is already over? By the time you get this newsletter we'll be close to preparing for Thanksgiving and our 1<sup>st</sup> Turkey Shoot! Several donations of turkeys and other prizes have already been identified for the taking. So, on Tuesday November 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm, everyone come on out! We're calling all students, dads, grandpas, uncles, and even moms, aunties, and grandmas to wear something comfortable and let's see who going to bring home the bacon. Oh, I mean the turkeys just in time for Thanksgiving! On the same night as the Turkey Shoot, bring your appetite because the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Team will be sponsoring a Chili Cook Off. More details to follow on that very soon!

On a very special note, we'll be in the process of moving back to Lincoln Park-TOAST before you know it! In the next couple of weeks, you'll be receiving Bus Applications from the District's Transportation Department. It is going to be important to fill those out and return them right away. The Transportation Department will have to re-route an entire school mid-year, which is not easy to do. Not returning those applications could mean your child may lose continuity of their bus eligibility and won't have transportation in place upon the end of the School Break in January. Please fill out the application even if you don't think you qualify, everyone should still fill them out because some students may gain bus eligibility because of the new distance and others may lose eligibility because of the same reason. Let Transportation figure all that out for you and if you don't hear anything after you've sent in the application by the first week in December or so. Let us know right away! Enjoy the upcoming Holidays!!!

## **Reminder from the Main Office:**

1. Parents please notify the Main Office by 2:00 p.m. if your child will not be catching the bus or send in a written note indicating who will be picking your child up at the 2:30 p.m. dismissal.
2. Parents when you send in any medical excuse notes, please include the student's full name, teacher, the reason for the absence and your contact information.



### Upcoming TOAST Events:

Please check our website for updates: <http://toast.albany.k12.ny.us/>

#### November 2009

- Tuesday, November 10th: Emergency Dismissal Drill
- Tuesday, November 10th: TOAST PTA Meeting; 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, November 11th: **NO SCHOOL**; Veterans Day
- Wednesday, November 18th: Recycling Show--in Auditorium: Grades K-3; 9:00-9:45 am
- Friday, November 20th: Crazy Hat Day: wear a crazy hat or design your own
- Tuesday, November 24th: Fire Prevention Assembly in the Auditorium: Kindergarten: 9:00-9:45 am, 1st Grade: 9:50-10:35 am, 4th and 5th Grades: 1:00-1:45 pm
- Tuesday, November 24th: Turkey Shoot (Basketball) Family Night; 6:00-7:30 pm
- Wednesday, November 25th: Fire Prevention Assembly in the Auditorium: 2nd Grade: 9:00-9:45 am, 3rd Grade: 9:50-10:35 am
- Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th: **NO SCHOOL**; Thanksgiving

#### December 2009

- Tuesday, December 9th: TOAST PTA Meeting; 6:30 pm in the Cafeteria
- Thursday, December 10th: Winter Concert dress rehearsal for classrooms--all classes in auditorium to watch performances; 9:00 am
- Thursday, December 10th: Winter Concert; 7:00 pm in the Auditorium
- Wednesday, December 16th: TOAST T-shirt day: wear your favorite TOAST t-shirt
- Thursday, December 24th-Friday, January 1st: **NO SCHOOL**; Holiday Recess (classes resume on Monday, January 4th **at the Lincoln Park location!!** ☺)

#### Happy Veterans Day!

A special **THANK YOU** to Mr. Fowler, Mr. Thompson and to any of our TOAST parents who have served our country. **YOU** are greatly appreciated!



#### Turkey Shoot Information



Our 1st Annual Turkey Shoot will take place on **Tuesday, November 24th** from **6:00-7:30 pm** in the Large Gym. The event is **FREE** and so are the turkeys, prizes, sundaes, cider and donuts!! So practice your free throws for your chance to win! It's going to be a fun and exciting event; don't miss it!!

#### From the Desk of the Home School Coordinator

The Fall/Winter Season is upon us so please make sure students are dressing appropriately for the weather. Winter Coats, hats, gloves and scarves are a **MUST!** We will continue to take the kids outside for recess weather permitting but students will only be allowed outside if they are dressed appropriately!!!! Have a healthy and happy Holiday Season!

**Ms. Cascone**

### **News From Room 15:**

What a GREAT start to our school year! We are so pleased to see all of our students settle into the routines and watching them grow in their school work and in their friendships. We would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few of our Star Students for all of the TOAST community to read about.

- Star Student Cardeair - We are proud of your friendship skills and honesty.
- Star Student Briana - We are proud to see how you look out for your classmates and always help.
- Star Student Alex - We are proud to hear your words and see such neat homework.
- Star Student Danyeill - We are proud to see that you never give up.

Stay tuned for the next set of Star Students from room 15. In the meantime, check out our monthly Classroom Newsletter. Thank you to the students, their parents, and class team for making work and learning fun!

**Mrs. Stevens, Mr. Martenis, Ms. Martinez**

### **2nd Grade News:**

September and October have gone by very quickly. We went on our first field trip to the Palace Theater. We saw a program called "Oyo Loco." It taught the children about differences between people and accepting people for their differences. We also had a Harvest Festival in October where we learned about bats and spiders. We made a bat snack too. We are looking forward to many special assemblies during the month of November.

**Mrs. Lo, Ms. Nies & Mrs. Scandurra**

### **What's Going On In Art?**

We're off to a great start in ART! Students should already know line styles and directions, shape recognition/drawing and have practiced Musing rulers. We've also had fun with art games and coloring contests.

The 5th grade skeleton paintings look great! As we move into the colder months we are beginning new projects while learning about famous artists, such as: Monet, Van gogh, Warhol and Da Vinci. I look forward to seeing great work!

**-Mrs. Wright :)**

### **Fourth Grade Facts:**

We are busy beavers in 4th grade! Our students are learning organizational skills and note taking. We are using our agendas to keep us organized and list homework and long- term assignments. Please make sure agendas are signed every night. Home-School communications are vital!

Every student is working towards the goal of reading 100 books for the Readers to Leaders Program. Students should be reading at least 30 minutes each night.

We are going on a lot of field trips this fall. Remember that admission to field trips is based on work performance (class work/ homework) and behavior. Do your best at all times!

**Mrs. Ellis, Ms. Franke and Mrs. Googins**

### **News from the Fifth Grade:**

**Math:** We are enjoying getting familiar with our new Harcourt Math series, HSP Math. We recently finished chapters on rounding, estimation and multiplication. We are now immersed in division. It is important to complete all math homework assignments to the best of our ability, thereby establishing a deeper comfort level with both new and previously-learned material.

**Science:** The world's tallest man, the world's smallest woman, what do these things have in common? They are all subjects to be studied in Science when we learn about genetics and inherited traits. The students did well on their first projects. We struggled with our first test but as we work together to better prepare for our next one. Start thinking about Science Fair as our topics will be due before the holiday break in December.

**Social Studies:** We have worked very hard to prepare for the NYS assessment. Now that is over and we are jumping into colonial America. We will be exploring local/state and national primary sources that will help bring history to life!

The 5<sup>th</sup> graders are working hard to make the adjustment to changing classes. We have many fun events planned for this year, all events that require the students to work together with their classmates and their teachers. Look for our first fundraiser - the Chili Cook-off in November at the Turkey Shoot-out. The more we raise now the less we need later.

**Mrs. Chainyk, Mr. Costello and Mrs. Holley**

### **News from the Science Lab,**

The last few months have been great!!! Five fifth graders formed the Rippin' Rocket Roller Coaster Club. They are currently building a five foot tall full functioning coaster as they research the physics that will make it work. Stay tuned for demonstration!

Our first bird watch was a success. There were about 15 early birds and a few parents on hand to spot a few birds near our school and in Washington Park. Thanks, as always, to parent Bob Reilly, who is always ready to lend a hand. Congrats to all grade 4 and 5 students for completing their microscope program. Each student prepared their own plant and animal wet mount slides. Ask them where we got the animal cells from. The upper grades are currently working on the growth and needs mealworm lab and the bird beak adaptation lab.

Finally, thanks to everyone who brought in a Ladybug for scientific study. Insect scientists (entomologists) at Cornell University couldn't complete their study without your collection help.

### **Upcoming November Science Events**

Bird-Watch November 6, 2009

Afterschool for K and 1 Nov 9, 2009, Afterschool for 2 and 3 Nov 10, 2009

Keep in mind... Toast Science Fair March 25, 2010

Mr. Flynn

### **TOAST Drama Club Presents..... A Broadway Revue**

Our Revue will feature songs from musicals including Beauty and the Beast, Aladdin, Seussical, Once Upon a Mattress and many more!

If you like to sing, dance and act come and join us!!

Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays and Fridays beginning on Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> in the auditorium.

Performances are Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>

Look for a visit from Mrs. Reynolds-Hoffman to get your permission slip

### **News from the Museum Room**

BUSY is all I can say about the Museum Program. First, I'd like to thank everyone who has supported school store. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30-8:00 are very busy mornings. We will continue to work with Mrs. Margolis from the Albany Visitors Center Planetarium. The 3rd Graders will be part of the Albany Roots, A Heritage Garden Program, First grade will take their first trip to the planetarium and the Kindergarten and Pre-K will see the Henry Hudson Puppet Show. Some of us will be going to Thatcher Park Science Center and others will be going to the Pine Bush Discovery Center. There were 21 students who signed up for the Hudson 400 Spelling Bee at the Albany Institute of History and Art on November 15th from 1-4. I hope a lot of us can come out to support them! December 2nd & 3rd will be the Kidsmart Holiday Shop, more information will be going home at a later date. Scotia-Glenville Traveling Museum will be here for the 2nd grade in November and the Kindergarten in December. See, busy, busy!

Mrs. Ingleston

### **HEALTH AND WELLNESS NEWS:**

TOAST has been selected to participate in the Fresh Fruit and Veggie Program from a grant from NYS. Students will be introduced to fresh fruits and veggies during snack time in class 2-3 times a week. Ask them what they are eating, last week they tried squash coins (zucchini), melon cubes and orange wedges!!!

The Health and Wellness Committee will be starting their Fruit and Veggie of the Month program, teaching students about the benefits of a particular fruit/veggie and having a "Wear Orange for Pumpkins Day". This will be on Wednesday, Nov 18th. All the students wearing orange will have their name entered in a drawing for prizes!!

### **Social Work News:**

If your child has experienced the recent loss, through death, of a significant family member please call the school 462-7264 and ask for the Social Worker, Beth Laddin.

TOAST will be hosting the Wave Rider program in January when we return to our building in Lincoln Park. The program is a 6 week program designed to assist children in the grieving process by providing small group experiences once a week. These groups will use art, music and discussion to support children exploring their feelings and developing skills to help cope with loss. Parental permission to be involved in such groups is required.

### Library Lowdown

October began as a busy month in the Library Media Center. Students have been sharing their reading experiences and advice with fellow students through book reviews. The first, much-anticipated, RIF Distribution was enjoyed by all. The next one will hopefully take place in our "new and improved" state-of-the-art Library Media Center.

Keep in mind that our Library remains the perfect spot to have fun while checking out some seasonal entertainment. For some eight-legged fun, look for Charlotte's Web (E. B. White), Anansi (spider folktales), or follow along as The Magic School Bus Spins a Web. The classic bat story is Stellaluna (Janell Cannon) but don't forget the nonfiction titles lining our shelves.

Also, check out November titles such as the poetry collection, It's Thanksgiving (Jack Prelutsky), the time travel account called Thanksgiving on Plymouth Plantation (Diane Stanley) or the funny Nursery Crimes (Arthur Geisert).

Stay warm and keep reading!

**Mrs. Florance**

### Notes from the Music Room:

Greetings once again from your rock-tastic music teacher!

In the upcoming months, the children will be utilizing the plethora of instruments in my room. The students this past quarter learned some of the basic building blocks of music and now it is time to apply them. They will be learning to read basic/intermediate rhythms, perform, and to *improvise* on the instruments. So if your children are banging on pots and pans at home, you know who to point the finger at. :-)

The orchestra has been growing steadily and by springtime we should have a few surprises up our sleeves. We have just picked up a slew of new instruments including a bass, 2 cellos, and a bunch of new violins. If your child is interested in playing in orchestra, please do not hesitate to call the school or email me. My email is [molmstead@albany.k12.ny.us](mailto:molmstead@albany.k12.ny.us).

Chorus is now in full swing. I have split the chorus into 2 sections to increase rehearsal efficiency. They have a full set of music that they're cramming for to give you the best winter concert possible.

#### **\*\*IMPORTANT NOTE\*\***

Mark your calendars!! The concert is the 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, NOT the 16<sup>th</sup>. There was a double posting on the district calendar. The 10<sup>th</sup> is the correct date.

### Computer Lab:

Students in **fourth and fifth grade** have been working hard on their PowerPoint projects. Don't forget to complete your land animal survey and return it to me as soon as possible, we'll be researching and creating our graphs in the upcoming weeks! Also, students in 5th grade just finished taking a Technology Assessment test. TOAST was the pilot program for the district, results will be given out soon.

In the **primary grades**, students have been learning more about animals, insects and "things on the ground" to go with our school theme. They have also been working on their math, reading and keyboarding skills too!

**Student Reviews:** Don't forget to write up a summary if you've read a new book, have seen a new movie or found a new website. I want you to tell me all about it so we can video tape your review and have it uploaded to our webpage (this is called a vodcast)!!

Remember to always be safe when you're on the internet, no matter where you are! Never give out any personal information, chat with someone you don't know or "friend" someone without your parent's permission. If you haven't returned your internet contract to me, please do so ASAP. Thanks so much!

**Ms. Whipple ☺**

### NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE:

Flu season has started!! The CDC, NYS Dept of Health and Albany County Dept of Health recommend that everyone get the seasonal flu vaccine as well as the H1N1 vaccine this year. Call your family md or the Albany County Health Dept at 447-4589 for information on the seasonal flu and the H1N1 flu vaccine.

Please adhere to the guidelines in the memo sent from the superintendent's office on the H1N1 flu. Keep sick children home while they have flu symptoms and for 24 hrs after the fever goes away and 24 hours after the last time they vomited. Please send in a note for each absence, with details on the symptoms your child had and if he/she were seen by the md. Encourage frequent hand washing, this is our best defense against the flu.

All students in 2nd and 4th grade need to have a copy of their physical exam on file in the Health Office. If your child has had a physical exam in the last year, please contact your md and have them fax a copy to the Health Office at 462-7152.

**Ms. Greenwood**